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PORTUGAL: Huge crowds are expected to turn out in Lisbon to celebrate May Day, which has been declared a compulsory national holiday. The left, in particular, is likely to use the festivities for a demonstration of political strength. The junta has urged the Portuguese people to respect the armed forces on the streets and to celebrate in an orderly fashion.

Political groups are busily organizing, issuing manifestos, and collecting funds. Socialist leader Mario Soares and Communist Party leader Alvaro Cunhal are taking a prominent role. Each received an enthusiastic welcome upon his return from exile.

Student associations previously closed by the Caetano government are reopening, and campus political activity appears to be on the rise. Labor unions in both Lisbon and Oporto have fired leaders foisted on them by the previous government and are electing new ones.

The whereabouts of a number of prominent persons associated with the Caetano government are not known, but there have been no reports of their arrests. Former foreign minister Rui Patricio collapsed after the coup and for health reasons has been allowed to remain in Lisbon, rather than join former prime minister Caetano and former president Thomaz in exile.

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FRANCE: Francois Mitterrand, the sole candidate of the united left, is gaining popularity, according to opinion polls and informed observers. The statistical obstacles to his winning a first-round victory next Sunday, however, are still sizable.

In previous elections under the present system, no presidential candidate has won the absolute majority needed for a first-round victory. De Gaulle and Pompidou, the front-runners in those races, gained only 44 percent on the first ballot.

The best first-round performance by the left was in the legislative election in 1973, when it received just over 40 percent of the votes. Since the left, even on the second ballot of either a presidential or legislative election, has never polled more than 48.6 percent of the vote under the Fifth Republic system, it is difficult to see how it can achieve an absolute majority on Sunday.

Mitterrand's best chance for a first-round victory appears to lie in an unusually high voter abstention rate. Previous elections have shown, however, that the rate of abstention tends to diminish as the challenge from the left increases.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In both the 1969 and 1973 elections, opinion polls just before the first-round election day overestimated by 3 to 4 points the percentage of leftist votes. Although Mitterrand has gained several points since the first polls taken after Pompidou's death, his current rating is only 43 percent. The first round of the campaign officially ends on Friday. [REDACTED]

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ETHIOPIA: The dismissal of a controversial cabinet minister may smooth over for a time the rift between important army units, but the military's lack of central direction will continue to contribute to the country's instability.

The government yesterday gave in to the demand of the Second Division and dismissed General Assefa Ayene from his post as minister of posts and telecommunications. Assefa, who was chief of staff under the former government, will remain in the custody of the armed forces, pending investigation of the Second Division's charges that he had tried to create dissension among military units and had made plans for the air force to bomb Asmara during the initial military revolt last February.

The Second Division, stationed in northern Eritrea Province, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] raised the issue publicly on April 28 by broadcasting its charges over Asmara radio. Both the Fourth Division in Addis Ababa and the Third Division in eastern Ethiopia had opposed forcing Assefa's removal without the cabinet's approval.

Further friction between units is possible, despite the agreement on Assefa's ouster. The moderate group, which holds an overall majority in the armed forces, is comprised of a loose association of committees located in the various military units; no one group has assumed control.

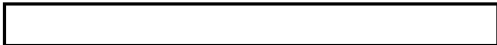
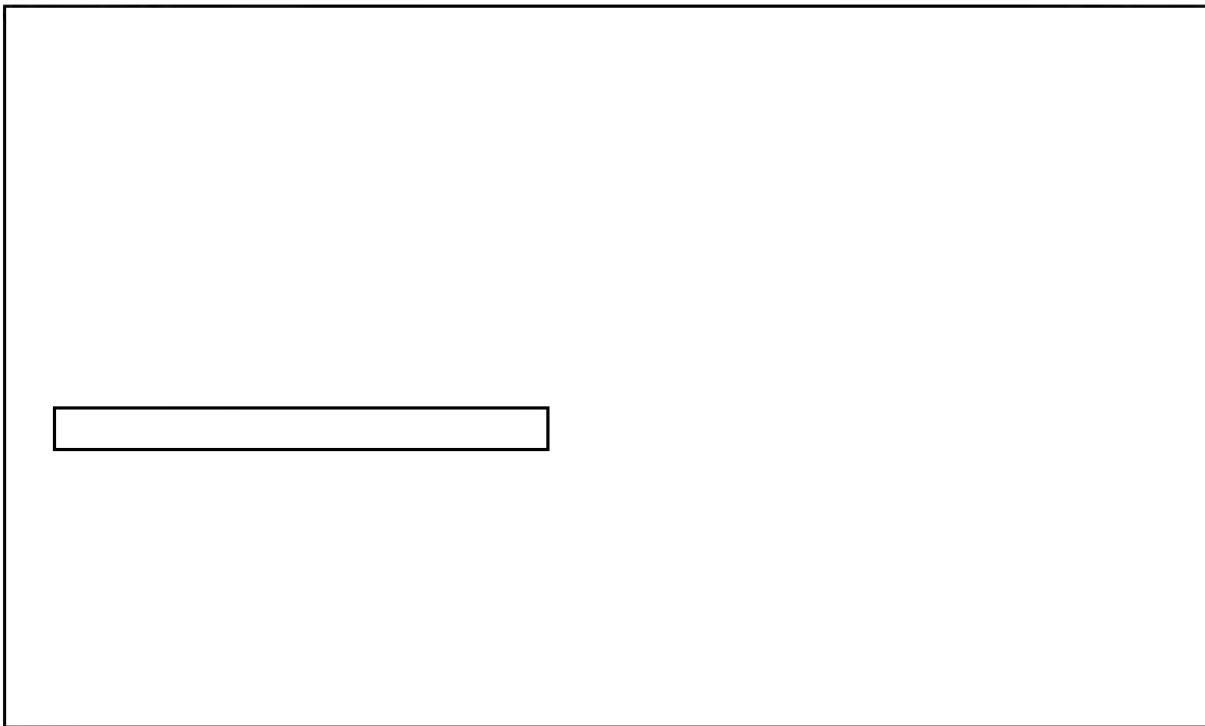
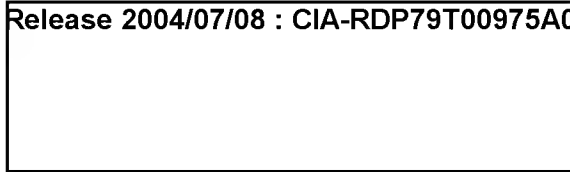
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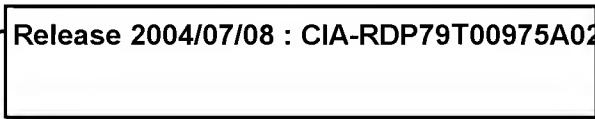
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Meanwhile, the army and police are taking a tough stand against strikes and demonstrations. According to one press report, troops late yesterday raided the telecommunications headquarters in Addis Ababa and arrested striking workers. The US Embassy had earlier reported the arrest of some strike leaders. Security forces are patrolling offices of other organizations affected by strikes that began yesterday in defiance of a government order.



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CHILE: Extreme leftists may try some spectacular terrorist action to mark May Day. The government is taking precautionary measures.

Leaflets signed by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left and calling for an uprising against the military government on May 1 appeared in Santiago last weekend. A small faction of the Movement, determined to take up arms against the junta, reportedly has revived the People's Organized Vanguard-- a violence-oriented group that operated between 1965 and 1971. The government's stringent security measures have severely impeded efforts by leftists to reorganize and to undertake opposition activity, but the extremists are probably armed and capable of carrying out hit-and-run attacks.

The government has banned traditional May Day workers' parades and has extended the curfew in the Santiago area. Junta President Pinochet is scheduled to meet today with worker representatives. He is expected to announce wage increases aimed at restoring at least some of the purchasing power eroded by inflation since the last round of pay raises in January. Outlines of a new labor-management code may be set forth as well.

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FOR THE RECORD

International Copper: Members of the Inter-Governmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC)--Chile, Peru, Zambia, and Zaire--will meet this weekend in Innsbruck, primarily to discuss copper prices. [redacted] the copper exporters will seek to set a minimum copper price in a range of 75 to 90 cents a pound. With world copper supplies tight through 1974, prices are not likely to fall to this range; the current price is about \$1.40 per pound. Nonetheless, once the precedent of a minimum price is set, it could lead to fixing higher prices in the future. [redacted]

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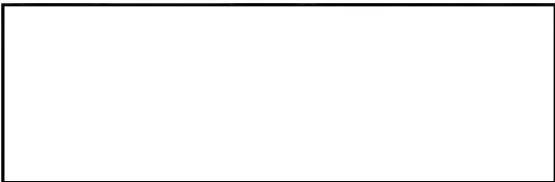
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